

The buried arts

By Dennis Rehnout
Associated Press

POMPEI - Italy launched an international "Project Pompei" on Tuesday Oct. 20 to build a giant umbrella or dome over the 2,000-year-old ruins -- one of the world's most popular tourist sites.

Announcement of the \$100 million plan coincided with the spec-

tacular retrieval in West Germany of six marble and bronze statues robbed three years ago from the ruined city. The recovery was a symbol of Italy's new aggressive intent to track down stolen treasures.

Trying to drum up interest and funds for the project, culture and environment minister Vincenzo Scotti is setting out on a week-long trip to inaugurate major exhibits from the ancient Roman city in Washington D.C. and France.

Scotti told an auditorium packed with archaeologists, local officials and members the European parliament, that humanity had lost a lot with the decay of the ruins in Pompei.

"We are asking foreign countries for their help because we have a responsibility to humanity," Scotti said.

In A.D. 79, a blanket of volcanic ash and comers from nearby Mount Vesuvius buried one of the Roman Empire's most bustling cities and its 20,000 inhabitants.

In 1748, archaeologists unearthed the city and Germany's classic writer, Goethe, declared prophetically that "of all the world's catastrophes, none has provoked so much joy to successive generations." But since then, the brilliant reds and blues of frescoes preserved for centuries under the airtight seal have faded from the exposure to sun and rain.

In 1978, a gang ran away with six statuettes of cherubs and ducks from the archaeological museum, the statuettes had originally been in the house opera, the most visited building of the 635,000-square metre city.

Col. Pio Alferano, of the culture ministry's investigative paramilitary police section, tracked down the thieves in Munich, Cologne and Frankfurt, and recovered the works. They had been cracked into pieces for easier smuggling.

The coup de grace in Pompei's slow decay came last November, when the Southern Italian earthquake opened cracks in more than ten buildings and forced a decrease in the number of tourists. The dead city's average 1.5 million tourists a year surpassed only by the Paris Louvre as the world's most visited monument, decreased by 35 per cent.

An emergency plan started last February and catalogued the 3,000 buildings of the city and stored 170,000 files in a computer with the help of soldiers and treasury employees. A second phase is scheduled to start in 1982, when reinforced steel rods will be driven into walls as supports, and earth tremor detectors will be installed. Scotti said in an interview that the last phase, to be supervised by an international scientific committee, would be to mount a protective roof over the large parts of the city. The roof idea has stirred controversy for years, but Scotti said that a courageous decision was needed in order to prevent further decay.

Scotti said he would leave it up to technicians to decide details of the umbrella-like roof.

Amedeo Maiuri, one of the great archaeologists of Italy, had already opposed a roof on the grounds it would make Pompei look "like a chicken coop." One of the leading restorer architects, Federico Federici said the ecological balance would suffer from the evasion of wild rabbits and foxes, and the landscape would be spoiled.

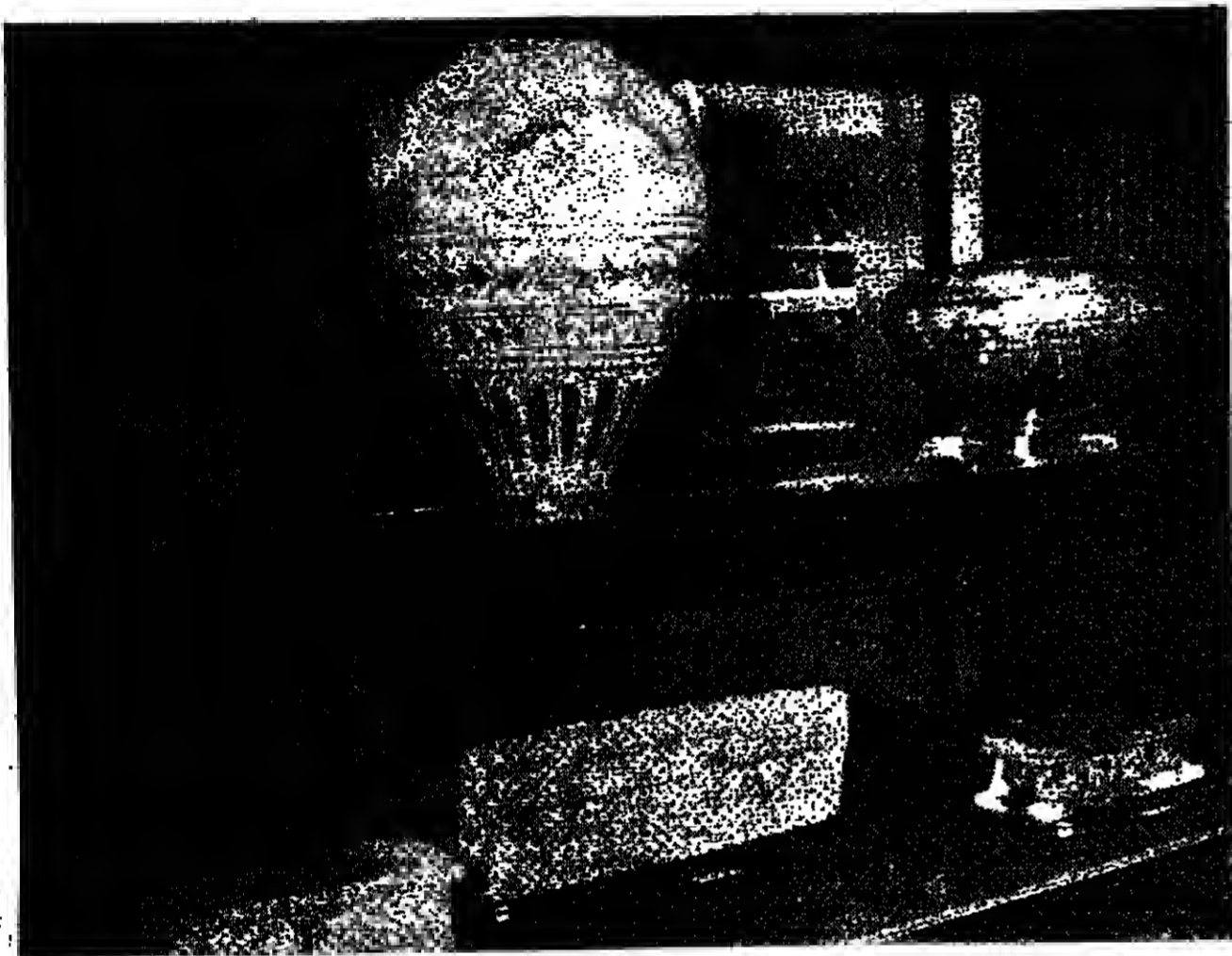
He said he preferred current experimentation with conservation methods providing for injection of resin at the bottom of frescoed walls to prevent humidity

from rising above the ground. On Tuesday afternoon, Scotti flew to Washington D.C. to inaugurate an exhibit by the Agnelli Foundation at the Hubert Humphrey Building entitled, "Italy: country shaped by man."

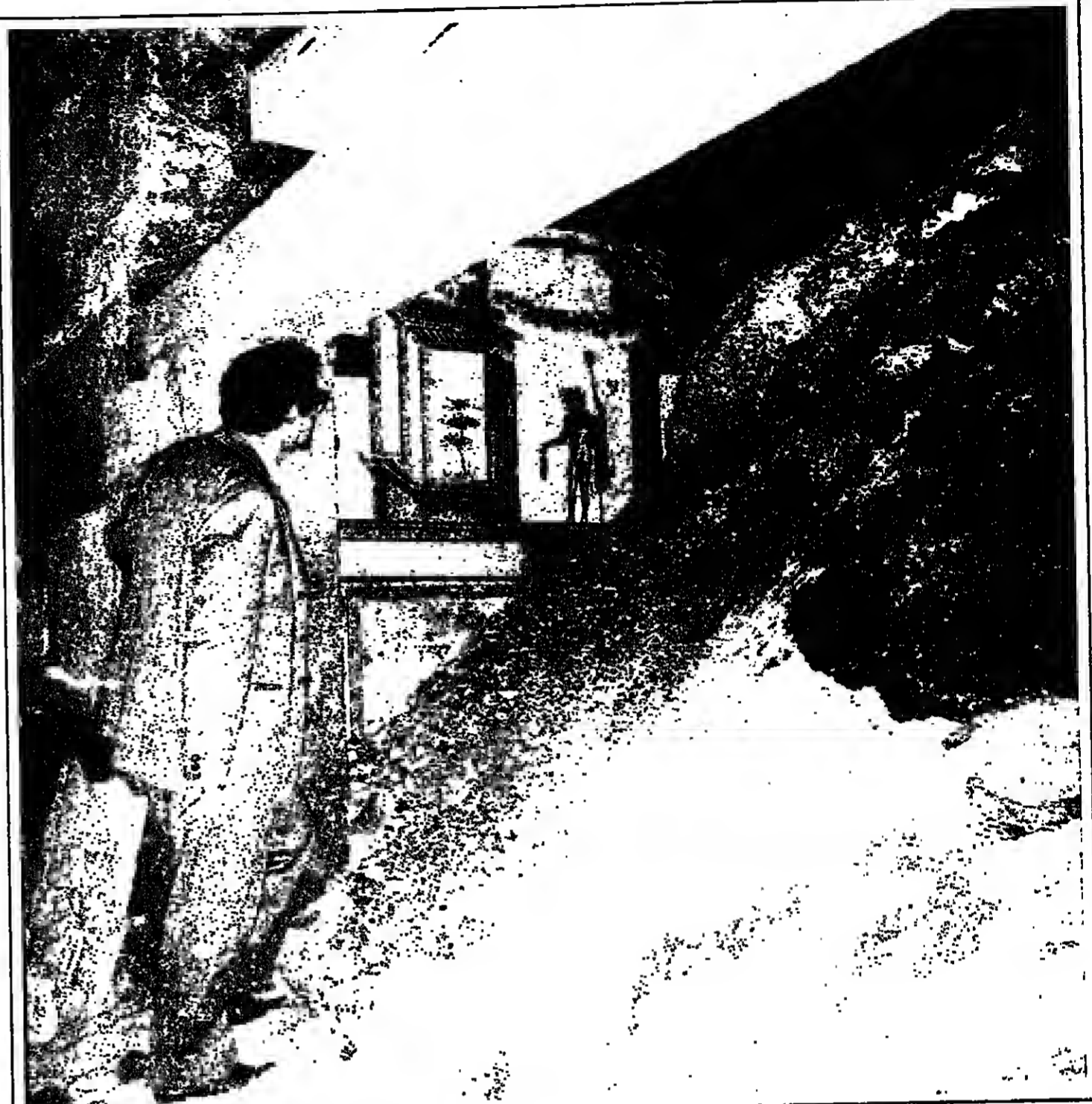
On Wednesday, he returns to Europe to accompany French Premier Pierre Mauroy, mayor of Lille, to open an exhibit on daily life and architecture in Pompei.

On Oct. 23, after a brief stop in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and meetings with U.S. cultural organizations such as the Smithsonian and the Guggenheim Foundation to elicit interest in the project, Scotti flies to Mexico City where he will inaugurate "Pompeii, A.D. 79," the travelling exhibit which broke all records of attendance in London, Boston, Chicago, Dallas and New York.

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Ruins from 14 B.C. on display in Naples



The brilliant colours of the preserved frescoes have faded over the centuries

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OPEC price deal expected next week...

LONDON, Oct. 20 (R) — OPEC, hit hard by plunging demand for its oil, is to meet in Geneva on Thursday October 29 for the third time this year, apparently ready to end an internal pricing row.

Western oil company executives said it was significant that it had succeeded in setting a date for yet more emergency talks. They said this suggested the 13 members, in intensive telephone consultations, had finally clinched a deal on a new, single base of \$34 a barrel, meaning that some must make almost unprecedented price cuts.

The market has now turned around, largely because of a 165 per cent rise in oil prices in 1979 and early 1980, and the Saudi hand has been strengthened by a slump in demand for OPEC oil, from 31 million barrels daily in 1979 to about 20 million. With the West in recession, cutting fuel consumption and using more coal instead of oil, buyers walked away from contracts with the higher-priced OPEC exporters — they could make up requirements with cheap Saudi crude. Other exporters appealed to Saudi Arabia to cut its huge output and raise its price.

The ambitions of OPEC "hawks" who raced ahead of Saudi Arabia in setting higher prices when the market was tight. The market has now turned around, largely because of a 165 per cent rise in oil prices in 1979 and early 1980, and the Saudi hand has been strengthened by a slump in demand for OPEC oil, from 31 million barrels daily in 1979 to about 20 million. With the West in recession, cutting fuel consumption and using more coal instead of oil, buyers walked away from contracts with the higher-priced OPEC exporters — they could make up requirements with cheap Saudi crude. Other exporters appealed to Saudi Arabia to cut its huge output and raise its price.

Meanwhile according to Indonesia's Dr. Suhroto today the issue of differentials "has been more or less settled already." Producers of the top, petro-rich grades include pricing "hawks" Algeria and Libya, now on \$40 a barrel. Industry sources say they have been seeking a formula to let them charge up to four dollars more than the benchmark, for a new ceiling of \$38. Some details of an OPEC deal may not be finally put in place until the group holds its next routine session, in December, OPEC sources said.

Shares of the two European-based multinationals, Royal Dutch/Shell and British Petroleum (B.P.) each gained 12 pence sterling in London, with B.P. at 298 pence and Shell at 348. A unified OPEC price of \$34 a barrel, expected to emerge from next week's Geneva meeting of oil ministers, will mean a two-dollar price rise by Saudi Arabia, ending the so-called "Aramco advantage."

Oil shares rally in anticipation

LONDON, Oct. 20 (R) — Prospects of an OPEC price deal next week and Middle East political tensions after the death of Egypt's President Sadat gave a lift to oil shares today.

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of the Saudi policy of over-producing during a glut in order to force pricing moderation on OPEC "hawks". The four U.S. companies have had to ship and unload the flood of Saudi oil, with some finding it necessary to sell it at a discount of up to 50 cents a barrel on the spot market, or to hold it in stock — an expensive undertaking. So the prospect that Saudi prices are likely to come into line with other OPEC quotes, and that Saudi production will decline a lit-

tle, is almost as good for them as it is for non-Aramco partners like Shell, stockbroker analysts said. Analysts also said it will be more difficult for smaller independent companies to undercut the oil giants' prices at the pump, if the flood of cut-price Saudi oil dries up and spot, non-contract markets tighten. The big companies say they have been forced into price-cutting wars in some markets because small operators with access to relatively cheap supplies have threatened their sales. Generally, if the OPEC rift is healed, the Saudis will be more ready to cut their huge output as needed to put a floor under oil prices in the prevailing depressed market, analysts said.

IMF considers \$5b loan to India

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20 (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has reached a tentative accord on a proposed \$5.8 billion loan to India, the largest single aid package the fund has ever considered, monetary sources said today.

The loan proposal, which goes before the IMF executive board for final discussion on November 9, calls for India to take a number of reform measures to improve its economy through a reduction in spending and other steps.

The loan, which would be for three years, has been singled out by the United States, the dominant member country in the IMF, for special review because of its size. The Reagan administration has complained that the IMF has been too lax in conditions it has attached to assistance. The United States is examining the Indian loan criteria carefully and is expected to raise a number of questions on the loan requirements, the sources said. In addition, many of the poorest countries in the IMF are concerned that the big loan will soak up funds which would otherwise

be made available to other needy nations. The tentative arrangement does not call for a devaluation of the rupee, a highly volatile political issue in New Delhi, but the IMF staff said it would continue to monitor exchange rates closely, the sources said. The IMF will insist, however, that India fight inflation through monetary and fiscal restraint while promoting private sector development through a reduction in government regulations. In addition, India is being asked by the IMF staff to emphasize exports as one step towards improving its trade deficit, which has been increased by energy costs and other factors. The sources said the Indians had agreed to specific controls on the growth of domestic credit and a number of other measures. Even with these steps, the Indian officials told the IMF the country expected to suffer balance of payments problems for several years.

U.K. jobless rate drops but...

LONDON, Oct. 20 (R) — The number of unemployed in Britain has dropped for the first time in 17 months, according to official statistics published today, but the long-term forecast is that it will go on increasing. The total of unemployed was widely expected to top three million this month, but instead registered its first fall since May 1980.

The number without jobs in mid-October was 2,988,600 or 12.4 per cent of the work force, the department of employment said, a drop of 10,000 from mid-September. The figure is still a post-World War II record for Britain in October, and economic forecasters predict unemployment will continue to rise through 1982.

U.S. judge rules: Video pirates can be sued

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 20 (R) — The major Hollywood film producers have won a key court case in their fight to share in the profits from the boom in home video recording equipment. A U.S. court of appeals here ruled yesterday that manufacturers and retailers of home video recorders can be sued if the machines are used to record copyrighted television programmes.

Gulf aides discuss industrial cooperation

BAHRAIN, Oct. 20 (R) — Industry ministers of six Gulf countries are to recommend to their governments that domestic products should be protected from imports, the official Saudi press agency reported today. The agency said the ministers from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain decided at a two-day meeting in Riyadh that experts should discuss the matter before any further action was taken.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

Table listing exchange rates for various currencies against the dollar as of Oct. 20. Includes rates for One sterling, One U.S. dollar, and One ounce of gold.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON, Oct. 20 — Equities closed firmer in moderate trading, as sentiment was encouraged by the presence of an overseas institutional buyer, dealers said. At 1500 the F.T. index was up 9.8 at 474.1.

Advertisement for 'Proper Diagnosis Save Your Money' featuring CMC CAR MAINTENANCE MODERN CENTER. Includes text about diagnosing car problems and a map of the location.

Advertisement for Mr. Fernando & Mr. Safreen of the firm HELLAS S.A. in Sri Lanka, who have arrived in Amman on a business tour. Lists services like shipping, recruitment, and marine repairs.

Advertisement for 'Malaysia seeks aid from Iraq' regarding a palm oil project. Mentions PENANG, Malaysia and the involvement of the government.

Advertisement for 'FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT' in Amman. Details include 2 bedrooms, living room, and central heating.

Advertisement for 'A MECHANICAL ENGINEER seeks work, six hours or less a day' with contact information for Mr. Samir.

Large advertisement for 'TASTE FRENCH FOOD' promoting French cuisine available at various supermarkets in Amman.

Advertisement with a 'WARNING' about employees of the Jerusalem International Hotel who have been discharged.

Advertisement for 'EXOTIC THAILAND' featuring Bangkok and Pataya, with weekly departures.

Advertisement for 'A FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT' in Amman, mentioning two bedrooms and central heating.

Advertisement for 'International traders' in Amman, Shmeisani, near the Commodore Hotel. Includes contact details and a map.

Advertisement for 'A FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT' in Amman, with contact information.

Advertisement for 'FURNISHED APARTMENTS FOR RENT' in Amman, near the Commodore Hotel, with a map and contact number.

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